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EXCISE

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ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 NEA-13 CCO-00 SSQ-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

UPW-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10

P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 IO-13 AID-28 RSR-01 /145 W

045425

O R 291230Z MAY 70 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 938
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION UN
CINCPAC 221
DIA WASHDC
RHMSMVA/COMUSMACV
SEVENTH AIR FORCE
RHMUABA/SEVENTH/THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY *Ambley* DATE *10/9/80*
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 1056

CINCPAC FDR POLAD AND J-2

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

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SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN SIT REP

1. GOC-SVN RELATIONS. GVN VICE-PRESIDENT NGUYEN CAO KY AND FONMIN TRAN VAN LAM WILL VISIT CAMBODIA JUNE 2, ACCORDING TO FONOFF SOURCE.

2. FONOFF SOURCE ALSO STATED THAT PARA 8 - CONCERNING VIETNAMESE - AND PARA 12 - CONCERNING FRONTIERS - OF GOC-SVN COMMUNIQUE WERE MOST DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. GVN TOOK EXTREMELY HARD POSITION, WHICH WAS ONLY RESOLVED AFTER MIDNIGHT FLIGHT BY THREE MEMEBERS GVN DELEGATION TO PHNOM PENH TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH GENERAL LON NOL.

3. GOC-THAI RELATIONS. AKP PUBLISHED SERIES OF SHORT ARTICLES CONCERNING THAI DELEGATION'S VISIT MAY 27-28. NO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS ARE MENTIONED. ON MAY 28 GENERAL LON NOL GAVE AFTERNOON RECEPTION FOR BOTH DELEGATIONS. TOASTS BY LON NOL AND THAI GENERAL LAS CHARUSATHIARA WERE SHORT AND UNEXCEPTIONAL. THAI DELEGATION ALSO RECEIVED BY CHIEF OF STATE CHENG HENG IN "STATE PLACE OF CHAMCAR MON".

COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME EMBASSY HAS HEARD OF USE OF SIHANOUK'S FORMER RESIDENCE FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS SINCE MARCH 18.

4. MILITARY. BRIEFER MAY 29 NOTED CONTINUED FIGHTING IN PREY VENG. HERE COMMUNIST FORCES, MIXING WITH LOCAL POPULATION, APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN REINFORCED AND CONTINUED VC/NVA HOLD ON DISTRICT TOWN OF TAING KRASAING, KOMPONG THOM. BRIEFER ALSO STATED THAT FANK FORCES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM PLANTATION AREA AT PREK KAK. COMMENT: BRIEFER WAS NOT SPECIFIC AS TO WHETHER FANK HAD ALSO WITHDRAWN FROM PREK KAK TOWN OR JUST PLANTATION AREA. EMBASSY ALSO INFORMED THAT OUR EARLIER REPORT (NOTAL) THAT BROTHER AND NEPHEW OF GENERAL IN TAM KILLED IN AMBUSH OF TROOPS AT PREK KAK, INACCURATE AND IT WAS KILLED. END COMMENT.

5. MILITARY COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT DURING RECENT DAYS THE ENEMY SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO GAIN TIME TO PERMIT HIS TROOPS TO REORGANIZE. HOWEVER, WITH THE AIM OF SHOWING THEIR PRESENCE, VC/NVA HAVE RENEWED ATTACKS IN PROVINCES IN THE NORTH AND IN THE SOUTHEAST OF THE COUNTRY.

A. COMMUNIQUE NOTED CONTINUED PRESSURE ON LABANSIEK, RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE.

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B. MAY 26-27, 211 VC/NVA BODIES FOUND IN FOREST TO NORTHEAST OF CHAMKOK, TAKEO PROVINCE.

C. IN SVAY RIENG PROVINCE, LOCAL DEFENSE POST AT KROL KOR HARRASSED BY FIRE, WOUNDING THREE CIVILIANS. SVAY RIENG TOWN ALSO HARRASSED BY FIRE WHICH CAUSED FOUR CIVILIANS TO BE KILLED AND 19 WOUNDED.

6. AIRA INFORMED THAT DECISION TAKEN BY CAMBODIANS TO ABANDON POSITION AT LOMPHAT, RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE. TROOPS, 21ST AND 54TH BATTALIONS, WILL BE MOVED NORTH TO REINFORCE LABENSIEK DEFENS. MOVE TO BE MADE AS SOON AS SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN DISENGAGING ELEMENTS IN CONTACT WITH ENEMY.

7. TOWN OF PREY VENT CONTINUES UNDER ATTACK. CAMBODIAN AIR FORCE FLEW MORE THAN 20 SORTIES AGAINST ENEMY POSITIONS IN AREA ON MAY 28. BY MORNING OF MAY 29 AN ARVN BATTALION WITH AIR SUPPORT ON CALL WAS WITHIN ONE KILOMETER OF LINKING WITH CAMBODIAN TROOPS DEFENDING TOWN.

8. CAMBODIAN SOURCES PROVIDED MORE DETAILED INFORMATION THAN BRIEFER (SEE ABOVE) ON ACTION AROUND PREK KAK PLANTATION. AIRA INFORMED CAMBODIAN 61ST, 85TH AND 95TH BATTALION HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY VC/NVA IN VICINITY. CAMBODIAN UNITS ARE ATTEMPTING TO DISENGAGE AND WITHDRAW TO WEST ALONG ROUTE 213.

9. SENIOR CAMBODIAN OFFICER DESCRIBED TO AIRA SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OF SOME OF CIVILIAN POPULATION. PREVIOUSLY, LOCAL POPULATION HAVE REFUSED WEAPONS OFFERED THEM FOR THEIR DEFENSE. NOW, IN AREAS LIBERATED FROM VC/NVA, LOCAL POPULACE ASKING FOR WEAPONS TO BE USED FOR SELF-DEFENSE.

10. SIRIK MATAK HAS SENT CABLE TO CAMBODIAN REP AT UN SAYING THAT MATAK HAS BEEN INFORMED OF AN IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION IN NEW YORK IN FAVOR DECISION BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO SEND TROOPS TO CAMBODIA TO DESTROY VC/NVN SANCTUARIES. UN REP ASKED TO "WARMLY THANK IN NAME OF PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA THESE DEMONSTRATIONS FOR IMPORTANT GESTURE OF SUPPORT" OF PRESIDENT'S POLICY.

11. THERE IS REPORT THAT SIHANOUK RECEIVED 24-GUN SALUTE ON

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ARRIVAL IN HANOI. ACCORDING TO EDITOR OF COURRIER PHNOMPENHOIS, THESE THREE ADDITIONAL SHOTS ABOVE THOSE NORMALLY ACCORDED TO A CHIEF OF STATE CONSTITUTE IN THE EYES OF CAMBODIANS AND BUDDHISTS IN GENERAL A SIGN OF CERTAIN AND INEVITABLE MISFORTUNE. RIVES.

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ACTION EA-15

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
RUMJN/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION UN
CINCPAC 222
DIA WASHDC
RHSMVA/COMUSMACV
SEVENTH AIR FORCE
RHMUABA/SEVENTH/THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 1056

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

12. SIHANOUK'S ACTIVITIES; FBIS CARRIES TEXT OF SIHANOUK'S SPEECH;

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FOLLOWING STATE BANQUET IN HANOI MAY 27. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS THE

FOLLOWING STATEMENT HE MADE: "TODAY, WE MAY ALSO DISCLOSE THAT WE HAVE GIVEN EFFECTIVE SUPPORT AND BACKING IN OTHER FORMS TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE STRUGGLING AGAINST US IMPERIALISM FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE SOUTH OF THEIR COUNTRY. FOR THIS, US IMPERIALISM HAS NOT FORGIVEN US. BUT WE REGRET NOTHING. ON THE CONTRARY, WE THINK THAT WE HAVE NOT DONE ENOUGH TO WARD OFF THE THREAT OF THE COMMON ENEMY". COMMENT: THIS IS CLOSEST SIHANOUK HAS COME TO ADMITTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING WELL-KNOWN AID AND SANCTUARIES TO VC/NVNA. THIS PHRASE ALSO PICKED UP BY AKP WHICH TERMS IT A "CRIMINAL CONFESSION". AKP SAID THAT IN MAKING THIS DECLARATION SIHANOUK HOPES TO OBTAIN THE TITLE OF NATIONAL HERO FROM HIS MASTERS.

13. SIEN AN PRESENTED CREDENTIALS AS SIHANOUK AMBASSADOR TO NVN ON MAY 27.

14. ACCORDING TO FBIS SIHANOUK REPEATED TO INTERVIEWER FOR EGYPTIAN WEEKLY HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT ARMY OR NATIONAL LIBERATION IT ENDED

TO CAPTURE PHNOM PENH. HE SAID THAT WITHOUT US/SVN INTERVENTION THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED A LONG TIME AGO. NOW, HOWEVER, LIBERATION OF PHNOM PENH "WILL BE DIFFICULT", SIHANOUK SAID, NOTING THAT THE POWER OF THE US AIRFORCE INTERVENTION SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

15. [REDACTED] SOURCES IN CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT SURMISE THAT SIHANOUK WILL TRAVEL ELSEWHERE AFTER HIS PRESENT VISIT TO HANOI. SOURCES SAY THEY BELIEVE HE MIGHT EVEN APPEAR AT LUSAKA SUMMIT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.

16. VC OFFICER DISPLAYED TO PRESS. VC LIEUTENANT PHAM VAN SANG, 27 YEARS OLD FROM AN TINH VILLAGE, TRANG BANG, TAY NINH PROVINCE, SOUTH VIETNAM. HE WAS COMMANDER RECON COMPANY 21, 272ND REFT, 9TH VC DIVISION. VC CAPTIVE ATTENDED OCS IN LOGO, TAY NINH FOR SIX MONTHS BEGINNING OCTOBER 1968. CAPTURED ON MAY 23, 1970 BY FANK IN KOMPONG CHAM. CAPTIVE SAID THOUGH UNIT SHORT OF FOOD HE CONVINCED VC WOULD WIN. HE HAD HEARD FROM BN COMMANDER THAT CAPTURED FOREIGN IGU ALISTS "HAD BEEN TAKEN FAR AWAY". HE HAD NO INDICATION OF JMS RS, TIME OR PLACE. ONLY OTHER POINT MADE WAS THAT NO BODIANS. VING IN HIS UNIT.

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17. LOCAL PRESS COMMENT: SETHKECH KHMER (KHMER ECONOMY) SAID IN ITS COMMENTARY OF MAY 29 THAT CAMBODIA DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE A DICTATORIAL REGIME FOR THERE IS ENOUGH LAND AND "LIFE IS STILL EASY". CAMBODIANS WANT BUDDHISM AND RED CHINA "CAN KEEP ITS HANDS OFF US". IF MAO LIKES SIHANOUK THEN HE CAN GIVE HIM A PIECE OF LAND TO RULE OVER AND MAKE HIM A VICE PRESIDENT, FOR CAMBODIA DOESN'T NEED HIM ANYMORE.

18. PAPER ALSO NOTES THAT INDONESIA'S SUHARTO DISCUSSED THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

19. KOS SAUTEHEAPS (ISLAND OF PEACE) NOTED THAT GOC HAS NAMED TWO LONG-TIME SIHANOUK OPPONENTS, SON NGOC THANH AND SIM VAR TO BE ADVISORS. PAPER, QUOTING "COURRIER PHNOMPENHOIS" (EDITED BY DEPUTY LENG SARINN) NOTED THAT SON NGOC THANH HAS DISSOLVED HIS "NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT" AND TURNED OVER THE ASSETS OF TROOPS AND MONEY TO THE GOC. COMMENT: CAMBODIANS WE HAVE TALKED TO, DO NOT BELIEVE SON IS IN PHNOM PENH AT THIS TIME. SIM VAR, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN AN ADVISOR SINCE THE EARLIEST DAYS FOLLOWING SIHANOUK'S DEPOSITION.

20. NOKOR THOM OF MAY 29 NOTES LARGE NEW YORK DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOR OF PRESIDENT'S NIXON'S POLICY.

21. PRICES OF LOCAL FOODSTUFFS IN PHNOM PENH REMAIN STABLE AS OF MAY 29. PRICE OF BEEF DROPPED SLIGHTLY BECAUSE OF RESTRICTION OF MARKET TO CAPITAL.

22. BLACK MARKET RATE OF RIELS FLUCTUATES, DEPENDING ON DISTANCE FROM CURBSTONE, BETWEEN 70 TO 90 FOR \$1.00.
RIVES

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